

Shurer Dhara stages *Tasher Desh*

NOVERA DEEPTA

MUSIC school Shurer Dhara staged *Tasher Desh* on the occasion of Nababarsha at the Lalmatia Girls School, Tuesday last. Based on the classic play by Rabindranath Tagore, the play was directed by popular Indian theatre activist Gora Sharbadhikari.

This is the first such effort by Shurer Dhara, led by celebrated Tagore singer Rizwana Chowdhury Bonya. After welcoming the audience, Bonya briefly presented the history of *Tasher Desh*. She also welcomed the visiting Indian artists Gora Sharbadhikari, Debashish Hajra and Animesh Chandra and paid tributes to the recent victims of the accident at a garment factory in Savar.

The play began with the song *Khoro hayu boy begye*. This won applause from the audience, which comprised children and their parents. The performance of the actors Pijush Barua, Tapan Sarkar, Kanak Khan, Shahin Suraiya Haque and others was impressive. However, the costume and make-up needed attention.

The storyline: A strange land where the powers that be strictly regulate every action of the people. This results in unhappiness and lack of creativity among people,



A scene from the play *Tasher Desh*

PHOTO: STAR

and the land appears lifeless. Meanwhile, a prince and his companion arrive at the country and bring about a change in the whole scenario. People aspire to be independent and the land becomes

colourful due to the enthusiasm of the common people.

Among the background singers Shwati Sarkar, Adrita Anwar, Shibhon Acharya, Bidisha, Andalib, Sharmin and others rendered

songs. The attractive stage-- made under a banyan tree -- was designed by Rupam Chowdhury, while the choreography of the dance sequences by Tamanna Rahman was spectacular.

Events Galore

Baishakhi celebrations in Dhaka



CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

To celebrate the *Pahela Baishakhi*, the Bangla New Year, different organisations are set to hold various programmes all over the country today.

The traditional musical soiree, held by Chhayanaut to welcome the New Year, will begin at sunrise. The daylong programme will include

dances, songs, recitals and a fair.

Bangla Academy is holding a cultural programme today at the Academy's Nazrul Stage.

Rishijo Shilpi Goshthi is holding a special performance at the Bhashani Sharak, in front of Shishu Parkin the morning.

Bengal Foundation has organised a three-day-long programme, starting from yesterday. Today the

event starts at 8:30 am at the Gulshan Youth Club Field and the attractions are Tagore songs, dance drama, folk songs, instrumentals, jatra and art show.

Orchestra is holding a musical programme, titled *Taklum Taklum* with Kiron Chandra Ray and Chandana Majumdar at the All Community Club, Gulshan.

Neelanjana Palli is staging a fashion show at the Winter Garden of Hotel Sheraton at 4:30 pm. Ad's Science will also organise Grand Gala Fashion Show at the Multi Purpose Hall of Gulshan Club at 7 pm.

Nazrul Institute is organising a special cultural programme and prize giving ceremony of children's art and Nazrul song competition at the Institute's premises.

Sargam Lalitkala Academy and Mrittika holds a poetry recitation and musical soiree at the Rabindra Sarovar of Dhanmondi Lake.

Shanto-Mariam University of Creative Technology is staging a musical programme today at BSCIC training institute.

Palli Baul Shamaj Unnayan Shangstha, a Baul singers' organisation, holds a Baul Festival at the Engineers' Institution today. Baul singers from all over the country will participate in the programme.

In Gungchil Baishakhi Utshab four popular films will be screened at the Shawkat Osman Auditorium today. The films are *Jay Baba Felunath* (at 9:00am), *Charulhati* (at 11:00am and 4:30pm), *Abar Aronye* (1:00pm) and *Off Beat* (3:30pm, 6:30pm and 7:30pm).

Impress Telefilms Ltd. is going to telecast the launching event of their fortnightly entertainment magazine *Anando Alo* today. The programme is being telecast live at 8:45 am.

Folk Talent

Mystic singer Nasima Dewan

KAVITA CHARANI

"Amaro Jibono Orey..." sings Baul singer Nasima Dewan in the course of a conversation. When one listens to her spiritual songs, it is easy to understand how she sometimes moves the audience to tears. Explains Nasima, "The songs reflect the feelings of people, their happiness and sorrows. The divide between the artiste and the audience soon melts away."

A definite watershed for Nasima was her performance of the religious song *Jodi Beheste Jaito Chao* for the acclaimed *Matir Moina*. Recalling those eventful days, Nasima goes back 10 years when the filmmaker Catherine Masud heard her sing at Faridpur. Catherine apparently enjoyed her performance so much that she asked Nasima to come on board with the *Matir Moina* team.

The shooting of *Matir Moina* in Gazipur was memorable for other reasons. As she says one workday she had another appointment in Faridpur. The shooting seemed interminably long as director Tareque Masud kept giving her instructions. "Annoyed and bored", she was not able to perform spontaneously. However, "Tareque was very cooperative. He said there would be one last shot and then I could go," reminisces Nasima.

She is also a member of the Shahwali Baul Shilpi Shangstha. The organisation has 30-40 Baul singers and they often get invited to perform in various parts of the country.

There is a general belief that

women Baul singers are liberated and sometimes go miles ahead of men professionally. Nasima, expresses her ignorance on this issue. Yet, as she says, she shied away from marriage because she wanted to concentrate on her singing career. However she did get married. She has balanced music and family with support from her husband Akkas Dewan, who is also a singer, composer and lyricist.

"My basic achievement is the

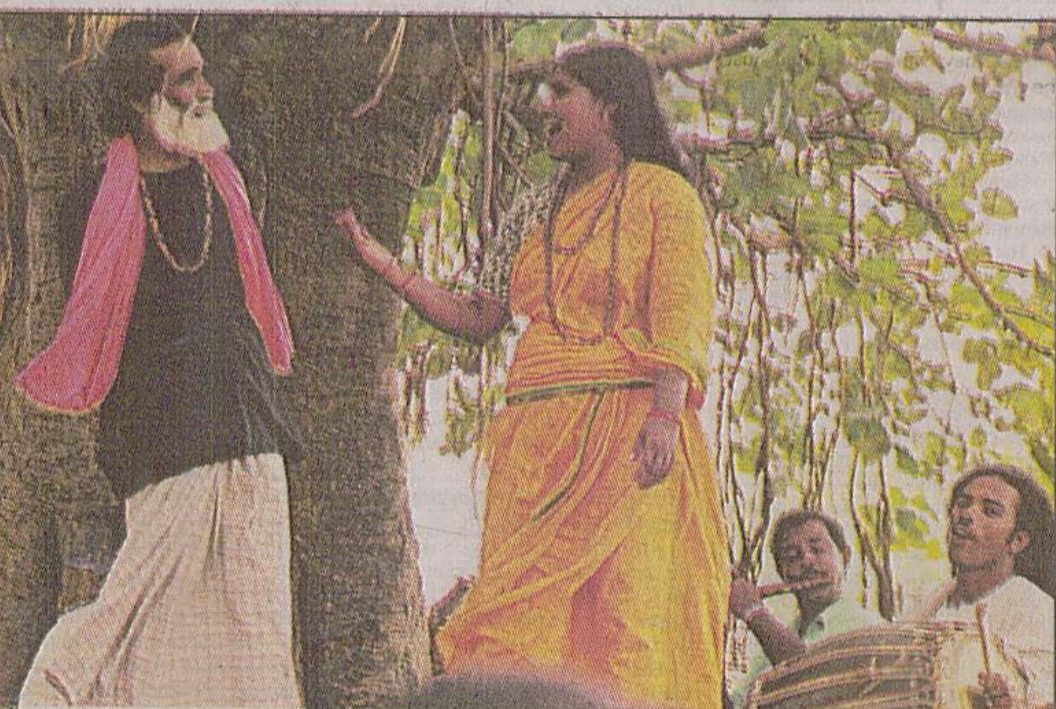
love of common people who like my songs," says Nasima. According to Akkas, Nasima shuns the materialistic way of life and can be called a spiritual seeker.

Sometimes Akkas and she sing duets. As she says, there are times when the audience asks him to sit down while she sings. Likewise, she is occasionally the first choice in a group of singers.

What's next for Nasima? She makes the dramatic statement that

she wants to die singing. "Music gives me peace of mind. My songs have a universal appeal," she says. She will sing at Ramna Batamul on *Pahela Baishakhi*.

Her goal is to attain greater success and gain popularity all over the world. As a step in this direction, she is receptive to an invitation from Tareque Masud and Indian singer Moushumi Bhoumik to go abroad and sing Baul songs.



Nasima Dewan (C) lending her voice in *Matir Moina*



PHOTO: STAR

Wearing the shades of Baishakhi



AFSAR AHMED

Gamchha--the unique local towel, used by the Bangladeshes, especially the rural folk, still retains its lure. In this festive time of the Bangla Nababarsha, one can re-invent our tradition by wearing the *Gamchha* differently. On this joyous occasion, in its ongoing exhibition, Nitya Upahar displays a medley of T-shirts in an array of fabulous colours.

An 11/3 inches long piece of *Gamchha*, applied on an off-white T-shirt titled *Hajar Bochor Dhorey* (For thousands of years) designed by Bahar Rahman with a brief description of *Gamchha*, is not only magnificent but also has a traditional festive

look. As Bahar says, "It's just an innovation to popularise the charm of *Gamchha* amongst the younger generation."

Like *Gamchha* another folk tradition *Haat Pakha*--hand fans made of clothes, cane, bamboo and palm leaves, where rural women have inscribed some messages with needles and colourful threads for their beloved, is on the verge of extinction in this era of electric fans. But Salch Mahmud uses this beautiful motif on his T-shirt *Haat Pakha* and tries to remind us of our rich tradition.

The T-shirt titled *Dhakal Muslin* evokes the lost heritage of our golden fabric that once conquered the world with its finest texture. There is a rare

sketch of a weaver making muslin, by distinguished artist and sensitive observer of architecture Sir Charles D'Oyly (1781-1885) who worked as a Collector of Dhaka (1808-1811) in the Indian Civil Service. However, this rare artwork has been taken from the book *The Antiquities of Dacca*, written by Sir D'Oyly. This work is embossed on a white and light chocolate background and is a documentation of our glorious past.

Banglar Mukh Ami Dekhiachi--this timeless line of Jibonando Das--is captured in a lyrical picture of a river, boat and lavish greenery of the countryside. On a black background

with a golden hue, is another T-shirt designed by Dhruba Esh.

Karushilpa by Saleh Mahmud and a series of *Lokoj* by Anisuzzaman Sohel with colourful folk-craft motifs and *alpanas* and *Shabyasachi Hajra's Utshab* capturing the glimpses of the world's festivals add splashes of colours to this festival.

Nitya Upahar's *Baishakhi* exhibition contains a total of 15 designs, among which six are new. Apart from these, there are two T-shirts for children: *Aamar Shonar Bangla* and *Khara Duto Shing*. The exhibition will run till April 30.



T-shirts capture various traditional patterns

TV GUIDE

All programmes are in local time. The Daily Star will not be responsible for any change in the programme.

News Bulletin

BTV
News Headlines (Bangla) at 8:55 am, 12:10 pm, 2:00 pm, 3:00 pm, 4:00 pm, 7:00 pm.
News (Bangla) at 8:00 am 1:00 pm, 5:00 pm, 8:00 pm.
News (English) at 3:00 pm, 10:00 pm.
Late Night News (Bangla and English) 11:30 pm.

CHANNEL-i

News (Bangla) at 7:15 am, 9:00am, 2:00pm, 7:00 pm, 9:00pm, 10:30, 12:15 am.
Teletext of BTV news (Bangla and English) at 11:30 pm.

ATN BANGLA

News (Bangla) at 7:00 am, 10:00am, 2:00 pm, 7:00 pm, 10:00 pm, 11pm.
News (English) 8:20am, 7:00pm.
Teletext of BTV News (Bangla and English) at 11:30 pm.

ntv

News Headlines (Bangla) at 10:00 am, 12:00 am, 6:15 pm, 9:30 pm.
News (Bangla) 7:30 am, 2:00 pm, 5:00 pm, 7:30 pm, 10:30 pm.
Teletext of BTV News (Bangla and English) at 11:30 pm.

TARA BANGLA

News Headlines (Bangla) at 5:30pm, 7:30pm.
Tara News (Bangla) at 8:30 pm, 11:30 pm.
Tara News Bangladesh (Bangla) at 9:30 pm.

BBC WORLD

Every hour on the hour

CHANNEL i	Baishakh
06:15 Nababarsha Celebration Live From Ramna Batamul	03:05 Pahela Baishakh Special Kobi Gananor Ashor
09:30 Shongbad Poetry Bangladesh and Public Reaction	06:15 Pahela Baishakh Special Sherer Lorai
09:45 Trityo Matra (Pahela Baishakh Special)	08:00 Pahela Baishakh Special Drama: Shikhey Photabo Phul
11:00 Purabi Nababarsha (Pahela Baishakh Special)	09:00 Pahela Baishakh Special: Pach Phoron
11:30 Pahela Baishakh Special Banglar Gaan	10:35 Pahela Baishakh Special Lolita Cinema Cinema
12:00 Pahela Baishakh Special Baishakher Kobita	
12:30 Pahela Baishakh Special Shurer Dhara	
01:00 Pahela Baishakh Special Music Plus	
01:25 Public Reaction	
02:15 Pahela Baishakh Special Etoroy Baishakh	
03:00 Pahela Baishakh Special: Sunshik Baishakhi Shaj	
	ntv
	06:10 Esho Hey Baishakh
	06:50 Money Jodi Laglo Dola
	08:30 Agker Shakal
	09:00 Shur Jhenkar
	09:30 Baishakhi Adla
	10:05 Oi Natuner Keton Orey
	10:30 Nababarsher Katakrom
	11:00 Jatrajola: Lohar Jal
	01:05 Muktagan
	01:30 Kichhu Katha Kichhu Gaan
	02:35 Bangla Feature Film: Lal Shalu
	05:10 Iltashar Ei Diney
	06:20 Shubho Shondhya
	06:50 Bangla Nababarsha
	08:15 Drama Serial: Kachher Manush
	09:25 Pahela Baishakh Special Drama: Ashcharjo Chherag Dindarpan
	11:25
	HBO
	1:00 Enter The Dragon
	3:00 John Q
	5:15 Kiss The Girls
	7:30 The Adventures of Pluto Nash
	9:30 Eight Legged Freaks
	11:30 Cobra
	1:15 Indecent Proposal
	STAR MOVIES
	1:15 For Love Of The Game

PICK OF THE DAY



Celebrating Nababarsha
On Channel i at 6:15am
Live From Ramna Batamul
Performed by Students of Chhayanaut and popular artistes of Bangladesh



Lal Shalu
On ntv at 2:35pm
Bangla Feature Film
Cast: Raisul Islam Asad, Chadni, Munira Yusuf Memi
Directed by Tanvir Mokammel

3:30 Sgt. Bilko	6:30 Adventures Of Mickey Anddonald	2:28 Star Asia Travel
5:10 Hunter The	7:00 Disney's The Weekenders	2:30 Oprah Winfrey
7:00 Agent Cody Banks	7:25 Film Topper	3:30 Bold And Beautiful
8:45 Casper	7:30 Kummuk - Pyara Sa Bandhan	4:30 Hollywood Squares
10:30 Courage Under Fire	7:55 Film Topper	5:00 Whose Line Is It Anyway
12:30 To Kill A King	8:00 Hello Dollie	5:30 Ally Mc Beal
	8:30 Deikho Magar Pyaar Se	6:30 The Simpsons
	9:00 Kasauti Zindagi Kay	7:00 That '70s Show
	9:30 Miliee	7:30 Friends
	10:00 Kkavyanjali	8:00 Newsradio
	10:30 Kahaani Ghar Ghar Ki	8:45 American Idol
		9:00 Growing Up Gotti
		9:30 The Chronicle: News From The E
		10:30 Really Caught In The Act
		11:28 Star Asia Travel
		11:30 Newsradio

12:00 Serious: Desert	12:30 Storm Stories	1:00 Sea Hunters The
1:00 Cheating Death	2:00 National Geographic Special	4:00 Dogs With Jobs
4:30 Backyard Science	4:45 Doc Eureka	5:00 Serious: Desert
6:30 Ng Explorer	6:30 Interpol Investigates	7:30 Shark Quest
8:30 Silence Of Sport	9:30 Marine Machine	10:30 Air Crash Investigation S2
11:30 National Geographic's		

12:00 Secret World of Gardens	12:30 Pet Nation Breed All About It Flat-Coated Retriever	1:00 Pet Nation K-9 To 5 Blood Donors, Flyball, Ranch Dog	2:30 Growing up Wild Zebra	4:30 Animal Miracles Second Chance	5:30 Animal X Chupacebras/Goat Sucker	6:00 Monkey Business	6:30 The Planet's Funniest Animals	7:00 Amazing Animal Videos Lyndal's Lifeline Koala Crisis	8:30 Growing up Wild Penguin	9:30 Growing up Wild Black Leopard	10:30 From Cradle to Grave Great Bears	11:30 Wild Encounters Profiles of Nature Specials: Defensive Ends: Porcupine & Skunk	12:00 Wild Discovery Hyena Lady	1:30 Extreme Machines Flight Power	2:30 Days That Shook the World	3:30 Past is Wild, Future is Wild Mastodon in Your Backyard	4:30 New Detectives - The Case Studies in Forensic Scie Absent Witness	5:30 Real Kids Real Adventures Stuck in a Swamp	6:00 Baby Story, A Baby Lantz	6:30 Danganman, Warrior Women Adventures With Geoff Mackley Crater's Edge	7:30 Wild Discovery Ghost Bears of the Rain Forest	8:30 Building the Ultimate Suspension Bridges	9:00 Amazing Baby Videos Legends of the Isles St. Patrick	10:00 Rivals Camilla Vs Diana	10:30 Great Cars	11:00 Massive Engines With Chris Barrie Rockets	11:30 Great Crimes And Trials of the 20th Century New York Mafia Wars	1:00 Atp Masters Series Masters Series Monte-Carlo Presented By Hsbc Monte Carlo Monaco 2' Round(S)	3:00 Brazilian Football (R)	5:00 Football Crazy (L)	6:00 Goals! (R)	6:30 Uefa Champions League 2004/05 Uefa Quarterfinal #4 Leg #2(S)	1:00 Atp Masters Series Masters Series Monte-Carlo Presented By Hsbc Monte Carlo Monaco 2' Round(S)	3:00 Football Crazy (L)	6:00 Goals! (R)	6:30 Uefa Champions League 2004/05 Uefa Quarterfinal #4 Leg #2(R)	8:30 Sportscenter India (L)	9:00 Uefa Champions League 2004/05 Uefa Quarterfinal #3 Leg #2(R)	11:00 Motorsport Asia (T)	11:30 Sportscenter Sportscenter India (R)	7:00 Portuguese League Highlights	8:00 Trans World Sports	10:30 Indian Golf Show	12:30 History of Football	1:30 World Sports	2:30 India-Pakistan Unforgettable	4:30 Caribbean Classics	5:30 History of Football	7:30 European Tour Weekly	8:00 World Rally	10:00 Caribbean Classics	11:00 Transworld Sports
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